



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



# **Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2014-2015**

**Illinois Best of Show  
National Honorable Mention  
2014 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest**



**Wood Duck**

**by Justas Varpucanskis**



Illinois  
Department of  
**Natural  
Resources**



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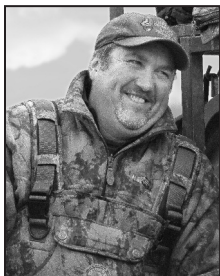
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## NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2014-2015

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Thank you for reviewing the 2014-15 edition of the *Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations*, a helpful resource with information on Illinois waterfowl season dates, hunting hours, bag limits, reporting requirements and other facts.

There are some encouraging signs for the upcoming season. Biologists report a record duck population of 49.2 million. Teal numbers have been high for several years, and we're pleased to report regulations will allow an early September teal season bag limit of 6 teal for the second year in a row. These reports are good news, but hunter success is still dependent on local habitat conditions, weather and other factors here in Illinois. To maintain these healthy populations into the future, it's important that we continue to support waterfowl habitat conservation in breeding, migration, and wintering areas.

The Illinois seasons are based on a five-year plan for waterfowl hunting season dates that was developed in 2011. This is the fourth year of the current plan, implementing Illinois' four-zone configuration for setting waterfowl seasons. The Illinois DNR considers waterfowl abundance, hunter opinions, and many other important factors when setting season dates. Waterfowl seasons are established to accommodate a range of hunting styles and preferences and maximize hunting opportunity for the greatest number of hunters in each zone. Following this season, we look forward to hearing from hunters with input on season dates and zone lines for the 2016-2020 seasons.

Thank you for your support of our hunting programs in Illinois, and best wishes for a successful 2014-15 waterfowl season.

Yours in Conservation,

Marc Miller  
Director  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

## HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

**Harvest Information Program (HIP) – Required.** This important program is designed to produce more accurate federal harvest estimates which will ultimately improve our ability to maximize hunting opportunity without detriment to the waterfowl resource. You can help preserve your sport by registering with HIP at the license vendor when you purchase your hunting license and state duck stamp. Remember, registration is **MANDATORY**, not optional.

## OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK FOR 2014

**Status of Duck Populations and Wetlands on the Breeding Grounds** – The number of breeding ducks estimated on this year's North American spring waterfowl survey was 49.2 million, an all-time high. This estimate is 8% above last year's estimate of 45.6 million and is 43% higher than the long-term average (1955-2013; 34.5 million). Wetland numbers on the breeding grounds improved from 2013, which was a year when ducks found good nesting habitat throughout most of their breeding range. The estimated number of wetlands on the 2014 spring survey was 7.2 million, 4% above last year's estimate and 40% above the long-term average. As a result of good habitat conditions and production in recent years, population estimates for most duck species surveyed were well above long-term averages.

**Canada Geese** – Most of the Canada geese that occur in Illinois during fall and winter are from two distinct populations. Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) Canada geese nest in northern Ontario and represent about half of the Canada geese harvested in Illinois during the regular goose season. Spring survey results for MVP geese indicated that the breeding population was approximately 323,100, which is similar to the 2013 population estimate (319,700) and 8% below the 1989-2013 average. Giant Canada geese that nest in Illinois make up roughly 24% of Illinois' regular season Canada goose harvest and about 22% of Illinois' harvest consists of giant Canada geese that nest in surrounding states. The 2014 population estimate of giant Canada geese that nests in Illinois (95,050) decreased 16% from 2013 and the spring giant Canada goose population estimate for the Mississippi Flyway (1.46 million) was about 9% lower than last year. Numbers of MVP and giant Canada geese are expected to be slightly below-average to average this year.

**Snow Geese** – An estimated 3.8 million Mid-continent light geese were observed on the 2014 Midwinter Waterfowl Survey, a nationwide waterfowl survey conducted by each state which occurs each year in early January. This estimate is 17% less than the number observed in 2013. Preliminary information on 2014 nesting conditions for Mid-continent light geese indicates good production and an above-average fall flight is expected.

**White-fronted Geese** – White-fronted geese ("specklebellies" or "specs") that make up the Mid-continent Population (MCP) concentrate on staging areas in the southern Canadian prairies each fall. Biologists typically conduct fall aerial inventories during peak of white-front migration to monitor changes in population status, but the survey was not completed last fall because of the U.S. federal government shutdown. Weather conditions on the MCP white-fronted goose nesting range were mostly favorable in 2014. As a result of good nesting conditions, production is expected to be above average for MCP white-fronted geese.

Additional details on the status of waterfowl species and habitat conditions across the breeding grounds is published in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2014 Waterfowl Population Status report, which is available for download at: [www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/PopulationStatus.html](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/PopulationStatus.html)

**Duck Season Timing and Zone Lines** – States are allowed to change duck zone options and location of duck zone boundaries every 5 years. The most recent opportunity to modify duck zone boundaries occurred in 2011 when IDNR established waterfowl season dates and zones for use during 2011-2015. The next opportunity for change to duck zone configurations will be in 2016, for use during 2016-2020. Prior to recommending possible changes to season structure in 2016, waterfowl hunters throughout Illinois will be provided an opportunity for input about season date preferences and modifications to zone boundaries. Hunters should look to engage with the Department to help identify hunters' preferences for season dates and zones. The Department relies heavily on this input to help develop the best possible season structure for Illinois waterfowl hunters.

For additional information on waterfowl harvests, population trends, aerial surveys, and hunter opinions please see the websites below:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/)

Illinois Natural History Survey: [www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/](http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources: [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/surveys/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/surveys/Pages/default.aspx)

# JOIN THE FIGHT!

96% of Illinois waterfowl hunters are already fighting the spread of aquatic invaders.\*

After hunting in any waterbody:

- **REMOVE** plants, animals and mud from all equipment.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat and gear.
- **DRY** everything thoroughly with a towel.
- **BRUSH** hunting dogs, and hose down their gear and kennels with tap water.



\*Based on a survey of boat show attendees.

## REMEMBER TO CHECK THESE AREAS:



## TRANSPORTZERO.ORG

Produced by Illinois Indiana Sea Grant and Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute. ©2014 The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. IHS-14-26





# 2014-2015 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION

**New Regulations are Shaded.**

## LICENSES, STAMPS AND HIP

Hunters must have a current, valid hunting license, Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration/certification and Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps in their possession at all times when afield. Federal stamps must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp. Please refer to the **2014-2015 Digest of Hunting & Trapping Regulations** for exemptions and further information.

Annual Fees Are *(including agent's fees)*:

Resident Hunting License	\$12.50
Veteran Resident	\$6.50*
Non-resident Hunting License 5-day/regular	\$35.75 / \$57.75
Resident Senior Hunting License (65 to 74)	\$6.50
Resident >75 Years Old Hunting License	\$1.00**
Resident >75 Years Old Sportsman Combination Hunt/Fish License	\$2.00**
Apprentice Hunting License (Resident or Non-resident)	\$7.50***
Youth Hunting License	\$7.00****
State Waterfowl Stamp	\$15.50
Federal Waterfowl Stamp	\$15.00*****
Sportsman's License (hunt-fish)	\$26.25

\* Illinois and disabled veterans may not need a license or may qualify for a half-price license. See details at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) or call (217) 782-2965.

\*\* These licenses will be available to any Illinois resident over 75 years of age in October 2014. A state Waterfowl Stamp is required, but is free with this license.

\*\*\* This is a one-time, non-renewable license. It allows those age 17 and under to hunt with a validly licensed parent, grandparent or guardian. Those age 18 and older can hunt with any valid license holder who is over 21. No hunter safety course required.

\*\*\*\* Any resident youth hunter age 16 and under may purchase a Youth Hunting License, which does not require the hunter to have a Hunter Education Card. A youth hunter with this license must hunt while supervised by a parent, grandparent, or guardian who is 21 years of age or older and has a valid Illinois hunting license. The youth hunter shall not hunt or carry a hunting device unless the youth is accompanied by and under close personal supervision of these individuals.

\*\*\*\*\* Does not include agent's fee or other charges.

A State Habitat Stamp is **NOT** required to hunt waterfowl.

## IF YOU WANT TO HUNT WATERFOWL IN ILLINOIS AND YOU ARE:

YOU NEED:	under 16	16 – 64	65 & Older	Disabled <sup>1</sup>	Serviceman <sup>1</sup>	Landowner <sup>1</sup>	Lifetime License Holder
Hunting License <sup>a</sup>	X	X	X				
Federal Waterfowl Stamp		X	X	X	X	X	X
State Waterfowl Stamp		X	X				X
Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration/Certification <sup>b</sup>	X	X	X				X

<sup>a</sup> Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980 must show proof that they have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course by Illinois DNR or their resident state or must show a previous hunting license.

<sup>b</sup> To hunt migratory game birds (doves, ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, woodcock, snipe and rails). Lifetime license holders must register with HIP.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this section, "DISABLED" = disabled American veterans with at least 10% service-related disabilities or disabled persons certified under the Illinois Identification Card Act as having a Type 1 or Type 4, Class 2 disability. "SERVICEMAN" = persons on leave from the Armed Services, having entered the military as an Illinois resident. "LANDOWNER" (or tenant) = those persons and their children, parents, brothers and sisters **permanently residing** on their land and **hunting on that land**.

## HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP) Waterfowl, Dove and Other Migratory Gamebird Hunters

Registration with HIP (National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program) is required **annually** to hunt migratory game birds in Illinois. For waterfowl, dove and other migratory gamebird hunters, register with HIP at the license vendor when you purchase your hunting license and state duck stamp. Hunters can register with HIP online at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). A \$3.08 convenience fee will be charged for phone sales if you do not register for HIP at the time of license purchase. If you get your HIP certification by phone, record the transaction number on your license.

## DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sep. 6 – Sep. 21 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	6	18
<b>Ducks</b>	<b>North Zone</b> Oct. 18 – Dec. 16	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	<b>6</b> (See section on Bag Limits)	18 (See section on Bag Limits)
	<b>Central Zone</b> Oct. 25 – Dec. 23			
Mergansers	<b>South Central Zone</b> Nov. 8 – Jan. 6		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	15 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots	<b>South Zone</b> Nov. 27 – Jan. 25		15	45
Early Canada Geese	Sep. 1 – Sep. 15 (North and Central Zones)		5	15
Early Canada Geese	Sep. 1 – Sep. 15 (South Central and South Zones)		2	6

**Bag Limit – DUCKS** – Bag limits on ducks are as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species including all teal species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, and **not more than 1 canvasback**, 1 black duck and 1 mottled duck. The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three (3) times the daily bag limit by species and sex.

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS\*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
<b>Ducks</b>	<b>North Zone</b> Oct. 11 – Oct. 12	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	<b>6</b> (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers	<b>Central Zone</b> Oct. 18 – Oct. 19		5 (See section on Bag Limits)
<b>Coots</b>	<b>South Central Zone</b> Nov. 1 – Nov. 2		15
Canada Geese	<b>South Zone</b> Nov. 15 – Nov. 16		2
Snow Geese			20
White-fronted Geese			2
Brant			1

### \*Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day Regulations

- Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration/certification unless hunting on property where they reside. No stamps are required for youths under 16.
- Only geese, ducks, mergansers and coots may be taken in addition to other game in season.
- An adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult cannot hunt geese, ducks, coots or mergansers but can participate in other open seasons.
- Zone lines for Youth Waterfowl Hunt follow duck zone lines.

# GEESE

GEESE		DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Canada Geese			1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	6
North Zone	Oct. 18 – Jan. 15				
Central Zone	Oct. 25 – Nov. 16 & Nov. 26 – Jan. 31				
South Central Zone	Nov. 8 – Jan. 31				
South Zone	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31				
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant				20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 3 Brant
North Zone	Oct. 18 – Jan. 15				
Central Zone	Oct. 25 – Jan. 31				
South Central Zone	Nov. 8 – Jan. 31				
South Zone	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31				
White-fronted Geese				2	6
North Zone	Nov. 3 – Jan. 15				
Central Zone	Nov. 19 – Jan. 31				
South Central Zone	Nov. 19 – Jan. 31				
South Zone	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31				



## CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE SEASONS

DATES (Inclusive)		HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>Snow/Blue &amp; Ross' Geese and Brant</b>		1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	None	None
North Zone	Jan. 16 – Mar. 31			
Central Zone	Feb. 1 – Mar. 31			
South Central Zone	Feb. 1 – Mar. 31			
South Zone	Feb. 1 – Mar. 31			

### CONSERVATION ORDER SEASON REGULATIONS

1. Unplugged shotguns may be used. There is no limit to the number of shells that may be placed in a shotgun.
2. Electronic calling devices may be used.
3. No federal duck stamp required.
4. State duck stamp and hunting license required.

## DON'T SHOOT A SWAN

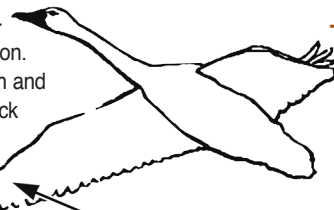
### DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE! ALL WILD SWANS ARE PROTECTED IN ILLINOIS

Several Midwestern states are reintroducing the native Trumpeter Swan to the region. Some of these birds are migrating through and wintering in Illinois. You can help bring back this magnificent swan by:

- Learning the difference between swans and snow geese.
- Reporting observations of marked swans with wing tags, neck collars, bands.
- Protecting wetland habitat.
- Reporting any harassment of Trumpeter Swans.

Please report swan sightings to:

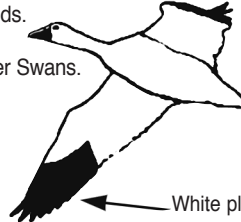
**Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Waterfowl Program,  
700 South 10th Street,  
Havana, IL 62644  
309/543-3065**



#### TRUMPETER SWAN

Protected Species.  
Long neck  
Length: 4 ft.  
Wingspan: 7 ft.  
Weight: 20 - 30 lbs.

ALL WHITE PLUMAGE



#### SNOW GOOSE

Legally hunted.  
Short neck  
Length: 1 1/2 ft.  
Wingspan: 3 1/2 ft.  
Weight: 3 - 6 lbs.

White plumage, but **BLACK WING TIPS**.  
**CAUTION**-White Pelicans have black wing tips, but their wingspan is 8-9 1/2 ft.

## FIREARMS SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU

1. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it before you pull the trigger.
2. Do not shoot towards homes, buildings, people or animals that may be hit by your shot, especially when using large shot sizes.
3. Use caution when shooting over water or ice to avoid ricochet.
4. Set up a safe shooting corridor in front of your blind and do not shoot outside it.
5. You are responsible for what your shot strikes. Hunters who damage property or injure others can be charged with reckless conduct and face criminal and financial penalties.

## WATERFOWL BANDS

Please report all banded birds you encounter online at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or by calling **1-800-327-BAND** (2263). Bands are not just a trophy, they help support important waterfowl management programs and provide valuable information that biologists need to properly manage migratory game birds. You can report any band (except pigeons), even if it is an old band that does not have the 1-800 number or web address inscribed on it, and you may keep the band. Certificates of Appreciation with information on when and where the bird was banded are sent by the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory via email to individuals who report recovered bands.

### WETLAND MANAGEMENT FOR WATERFOWL AND OTHER WILDLIFE

Waterfowl and other wetland wildlife are a diverse group of animals with widely varying habitat needs. Factors that must be considered when managing wetlands to attract waterfowl are; water depth, food, and vegetative cover. For instance, most dabbling ducks, like mallards and pintails, prefer water depths of less than 18 inches. Diving ducks, like scaup, ring-necked ducks, and canvasbacks, prefer deeper water. These differences are related to species' preferred food and body structure.

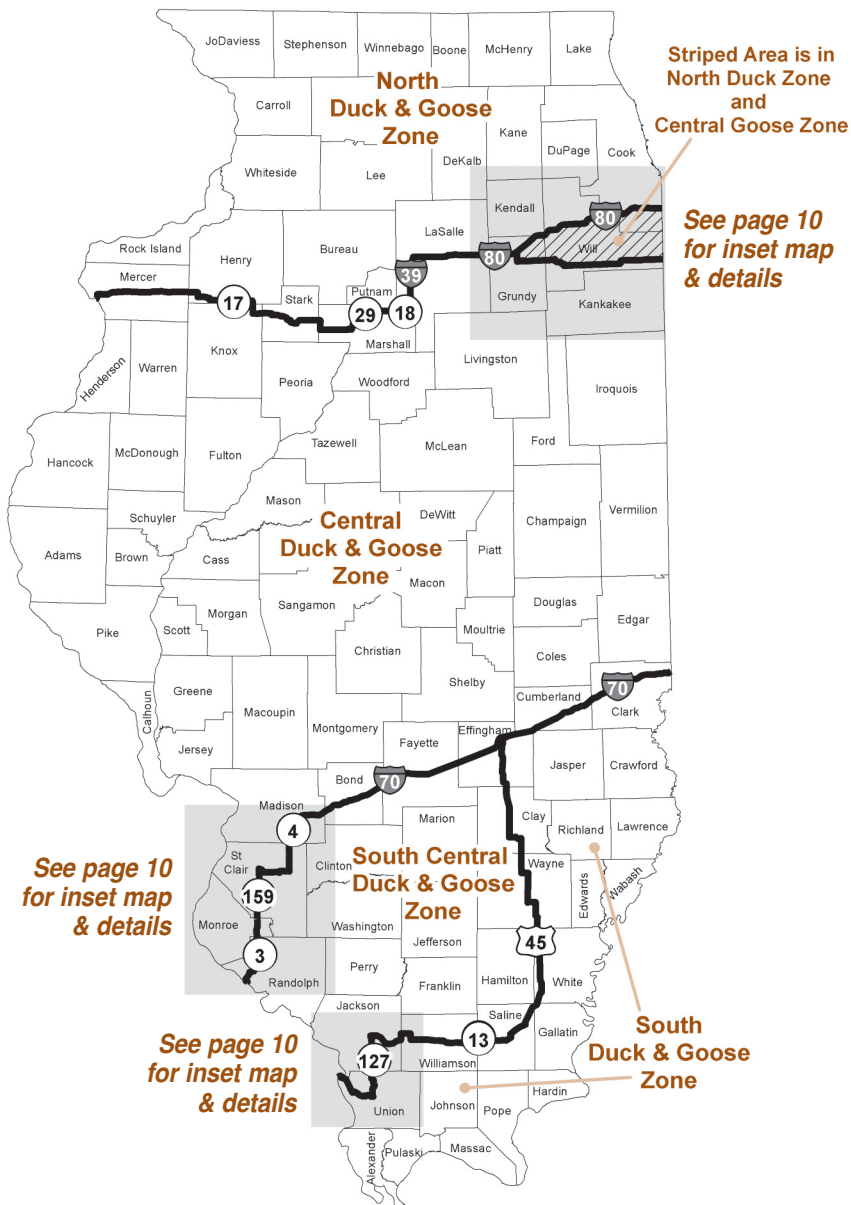
Dabbling ducks prefer the seeds and parts of aquatic vegetation, but because they are poorly equipped to dive deeply, they tend to eat the food that they can easily reach by feeding at the surface or "tipping up". Diving ducks are equipped to dive to greater depths in part because their feet are positioned farther towards the rear of their body. This allows them to dive more efficiently, and as a result they can eat the food items found in deeper water. Diversity of vegetation around wetland edges can be important as well. Thick vegetation may provide hiding places for broods in summer and thermal cover in winter, other waterfowl may prefer the safety bare mudflats provide.

Managers should attempt to provide as diverse an array of habitat types as possible. On large wetland complexes, wetland managers should strive to vary management practices and water levels. Alternatively, complexes of separate and smaller wetlands can achieve the same goals when managed in different manners. These habitats aren't just good for waterfowl and other wildlife; they are good for hunters too. Past studies have shown that hunter success increases when duck numbers in the surrounding area increase. With many waterfowl species populations at or near all-time highs, providing habitat to attract a variety of duck species should increase duck abundance, which should increase hunter success in the area.

It's also important to leave wetlands flooded in the spring to provide habitat for ducks returning to the breeding grounds. Most waterfowl foods grow in the summer and are eaten during fall migration, often leaving little for spring migrants, a critical time period for ducks as they prepare to nest. Delaying draining of managed wetlands until March and April will ensure ducks returning north have an adequate food supply. There will still be time to plant crops for waterfowl food and for moist-soil plants to produce natural food. More ducks in better condition returning in spring will lead to better production and a greater fall flight. Contact your local District Wildlife Biologist for more information on managing wetlands in your area for waterfowl.

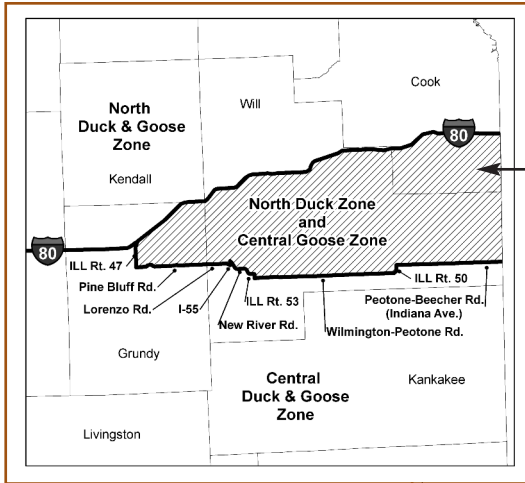
# ILLINOIS WATERFOWL ZONES

*Inset maps for zone borders are found on page 10.*



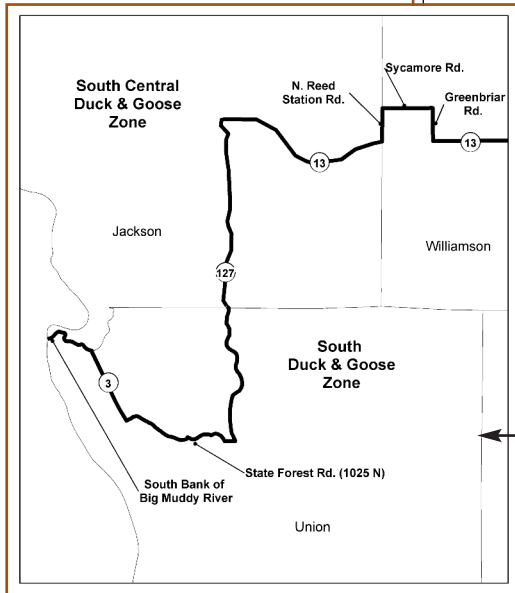
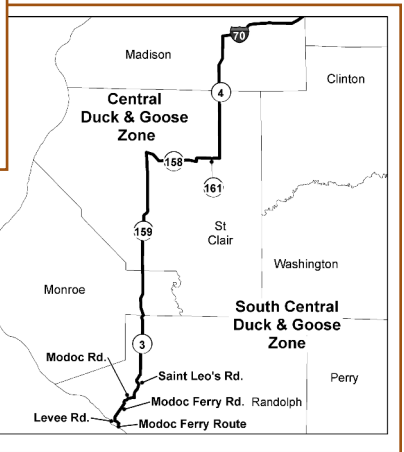
# ILLINOIS WATERFOWL ZONES

## *Inset Maps*



**Striped Area is in the  
North Duck Zone and  
Central Goose Zone**

**Boundary for the  
Central Duck & Goose Zone  
and the  
South Central Duck & Goose Zone**



**Boundary for the  
South Central Duck & Goose Zone  
and the  
South Duck & Goose Zone**

## WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONE DESCRIPTIONS

### Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots

**North Zone:** That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Peotone-Beecher Road to Illinois Route 50, south along Illinois Route 50 to Wilmington-Peotone Road, west along Wilmington-Peotone Road to Illinois Route 53, north along Illinois Route 53 to New River Road, northwest along New River Road to Interstate Highway 55, south along I-55 to Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road, west along Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road to Illinois Route 47, north along Illinois Route 47 to I-80, west along I-80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

**Central Duck Zone:** That portion of the state south of the North Duck Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

**South Duck Zone:** That portion of the state south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

**South Central Duck Zone:** The remainder of the state between the south border of the Central Zone and the North border of the South Zone.

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### Geese

**North Goose Zone:** That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

**Central Goose Zone:** That portion of the state south of the North Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

**South Goose Zone:** Same zones as for ducks.

**South Central Goose Zone:** Same zones as for ducks.

TOM ROSTER'S 2012 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE <sup>®</sup>									
Proven Nontoxic Shot Loads For Waterfowl & Upland Game Birds <sup>1</sup> <i>Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,450 FPS</i>	Typical Shooting Range of Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Sizes <sup>2</sup> For Birds Listed Under the First Column Entitled ACTIVITY	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Pellets in 30" Circle) (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~7.66 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and slightly harder than traditional steel pellets.			
<b>ACTIVITY</b>									
Large Geese At Long Range	50-65	Steel BBB to T	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified			
Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-70	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified, Full			
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified			
	35-50	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified			
Medium/Small Geese Long Range	50-65	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified			
Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65	HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/2	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified, Full			
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel 2 to BB	1-1/8	1-2	60-65	Light Modified, Modified			
	35-50	HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Cylinder, Modified			
Large Ducks At Long Range	45-65	Steel 2 to 1	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full			
Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65	HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/4	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full			
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 2	3/4 - 1	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)			
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)			
Medium Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 3	1	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)			
Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)			
Small Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 4	1	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)			
Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/8	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)			
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50	Steel 3 to 2	1	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)			
	20-50	HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/8	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)			
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full			
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full			

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the waterfowl lethality data bases for certain of the 15 U.S. steel versus lead waterfowl shooting tests run between 1968 & 1982 & one steel-only pheasant shooting test plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP organization.

Note: Steel #BBB (.190") and HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") and HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; and steel #2 and HEVI-Shot #4 the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants.

<sup>1</sup>These findings are derived from testing 3" 20 gauge; 2 3/4", 3" and 3 1/2" 12 gauge; and 3 1/2" 10 gauge steel loads; plus 3" 20 gauge and 2 3/4" and 3" 12 gauge HEVI-Shot loads.

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# SUMMARY OF STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS

**In addition to statewide regulations, the following regulations apply to MIGRATORY WATERFOWL HUNTERS (ducks, geese, mergansers, coots).**

NOTE: Material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, Chapter 520 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and IL Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations - 2014-2015, or talk with a local Conservation Police Officer or a Division of Wildlife Resources Biologist. For additional information on federal regulations call the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Springfield, Illinois at 217-793-9554.

## **Non-Toxic Shot Requirements**

Non-toxic shot currently approved by the USFWS includes: (note some brand names are listed in parenthesis for convenience), steel (Federal Black Cloud + all other steel shot), bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel (Environ-Metal: HEVI-13, Rem. HEVI-Shot, HEVI-Duck, HEVI-Steel, Classic Doubles and Federal Heavyweight), tungsten-bronze (Remington Wingmaster HD), tungsten-iron-copper-nickel (Win. Extended Range Hi-Density), tungsten-matrix ([Kent] Impact), tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron (Fed. UltraShok High Density), tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel (Environ-Metal Dead Coyote!), tungsten-iron-polymer (Tundra Composites TIF Shot), copper-clad iron shot (Spectra Shot). Other approved brand names of non-toxic shot are "Nice Shot" and "Ballistic Products ITX Shot".

## **Shot Size Requirements**

It is unlawful to hunt with or have in your possession while hunting waterfowl a shotgun shell with shot larger than steel size T or larger than BBB of any other non-toxic shot.

## **Hunting Devices & Ammunition Restrictions**

It is unlawful to use a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance. Crossbows may be used to take waterfowl by a person age 62 or older, a handicapped person who has a permit to use a crossbow, and anyone from the second Monday following the Thanksgiving holiday through the last day of the archery deer season.

It is unlawful to hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, UNLESS it is plugged with a one-piece filler which limits its total shell capacity to three and which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. This does not apply during Conservation Order light goose seasons (snow/blue and Ross' geese) that occur after Canada goose season has closed. (see page 7).

## **Hunting From Floating Blinds, Boats & Scull Boats**

It is unlawful to hunt from a floating blind that is not anchored EXCEPT a scull boat may be used on certain public waters and waterfowl may be taken from a boat not mechanically powered and not camouflaged or disguised. A boat merely painted camouflage is not considered camouflaged.

## **Live Decoys**

It is unlawful to hunt by the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

## **Electronic Calling Devices**

It is unlawful to use a recording or electronic calling device to hunt migratory birds other than crows, except during Conservation Order light goose seasons that occur after Canada goose season such electronic call devices may be used to hunt snow/blue and Ross' geese. (see page 7).

## **Shooting Crippled Waterfowl From Boats**

It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl from a moving watercraft propelled by mechanical power or sails. NOTE: However, waterfowl hunters may have an uncased and unloaded gun in their boat for the purpose of pursuing crippled migratory waterfowl incapable of normal flight in an attempt to reduce said bird to possession, provided that the attempt is made immediately upon downing the bird and is done within 400 yards of the blind from which the bird was downed. The gun cannot be loaded unless the motor has been completely shut off and the crippled birds may not be shot from such a boat until the motor has been completely shut off and its progress therefrom has ceased.

## **Driving or Chasing Birds**

It is unlawful to hunt by driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.

## **Permits Required for Leased Lands and Commercial Clubs**

It is unlawful to commercially control land or water, or both, in whole or in part for the taking of migratory waterfowl, unless first obtaining a permit from the Department. NOTE: A person is "commercially controlling land or water, or both" when he directly or indirectly receives compensation from persons in exchange for the opportunity to enter onto that land or water. Refer to the waterfowl section of the DNR website for a copy of Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Area Permit Application (<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/Pages/CommercialWaterfowlHunting.aspx>)

Note: Commercial Waterfowl Hunting rules and regulations will be changing prior to next hunting season (2015-16). Please refer to the Illinois DNR website for more information in Spring 2015.

## **Possession of Live Birds**

It is unlawful to retain live waterfowl taken while hunting. Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become part of the daily bag limit.

## **Field Possession Limit**

It is unlawful to possess, have in custody, or transport more than one daily bag limit tagged or not tagged while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

## **Wanton Waste – Retrieval of Downed Game Birds**

It is unlawful to kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in your actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and your automobile or personal abode or temporary place of lodging or a migratory bird preservation facility or a post office or a common carrier facility. ***Birds must remain in your possession while in the field.*** NOTE: You need permission to enter private property. It is unlawful to wantonly waste or destroy the useable meat (defined as the breast meat of a migratory game bird) of any game bird or migratory game bird that has a bag limit, and to leave, dump or abandon a wildlife carcass or its parts along or upon a public right-of-way or highway or on public or private property, including a waterway or stream without permission.

## **Tagging Requirements**

It is unlawful to give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than his personal abode) or in the custody of another person UNLESS the birds are tagged by the hunter with the hunter's signature and address, the total number of birds involved, by species, and the dates such birds were killed. Refer to the waterfowl section of the DNR website for printable tags for gifting waterfowl. ([www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl))

## **Gift of Migratory Game Birds**

No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly-killed migratory game bird as a gift, except at the personal abode of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached (see tagging requirements).

## **Custody of Birds of Another**

It is unlawful to receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person UNLESS such birds are properly tagged.

## **Species Identification Requirement**

It is unlawful to completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or commercial preservation facility.

## **Termination of Possession**

The possession of birds taken by any hunter ceases when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

## **Shipment – Marking Package**

It is unlawful to ship migratory game birds UNLESS the package is marked clearly and conspicuously on the outside with the name and address of the person sending the birds, the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

## **Importation**

It is unlawful to import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, UNLESS such birds are dressed (except as required below), drawn and the head and feet are removed. NOTE: One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person. For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66.

## Sink Box

It is unlawful to hunt from a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

## Aquatic Transport Laws

Effective January 1, 2013, the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act has been amended to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals by boats, trailers and vehicles. It is now illegal to enter OR leave a waterbody with aquatic plants (except duckweed) and animals attached to your boat, trailer, or gear (example; decoys). Travel on Illinois highways with aquatic plants (except duckweed) or animals attached is also prohibited. Always **Remove, Drain, and Dry** to comply with the new law.

### ADDITIONAL CANADA GOOSE HUNTING REGULATIONS ON NON-COMMERCIAL AREAS IN ALEXANDER, FRANKLIN, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, UNION AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

On any property where the principal use is to take wild geese in Alexander, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Union and Williamson counties, other than property operated under a Commercial Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Area Permit, all of the following restrictions shall be observed but only during Canada goose season:

- (1) No person may take wild geese except from a blind or pit and it shall be illegal to take or attempt to take geese from the base of standing timber except when immediately adjacent to an open field.
- (2) No person may establish or use a blind or pit within 100 yards of the boundary of the property on which the blind or pit is located unless the minimum yardage requirement cannot be met, in which case one blind or pit may be permitted only if there is a minimum of 200 yards between that pit or blind and the nearest pit or blind.
- (3) No person may establish or use a blind or pit for the taking of wild geese within 200 yards of any wildlife refuge boundary or public road right-of-way adjacent to any State or Federal waterfowl refuge. If a blind or pit has been established for more than 10 years and it was believed by both the landowner and the Department during that time to meet the minimum yardage requirements of this paragraph (3), then the blind or pit may remain in place even though a survey or other evidence may indicate that the minimum yardage requirements are not met.

## STATE AND FEDERAL BAITING REGULATIONS

Federal baiting regulations define key terms for hunters and land managers, and clarify conditions under which you may legally hunt waterfowl and other migratory game birds. As a waterfowl hunter or land manager, it is your responsibility to know and obey all Federal and State laws that govern the sport. Rules that affect waterfowl hunting also apply to hunting coots and all references to waterfowl encompass these birds as well. Federal regulations are more restrictive for waterfowl hunting than for dove hunting.

For further information, go to [www.fws.gov/le/huntfish/waterfowl\\_baiting.htm](http://www.fws.gov/le/huntfish/waterfowl_baiting.htm).

### Definitions from Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

Baited area means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for 10 days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

Natural vegetation means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

## Excerpts from Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.21(i)

No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- (i) By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits:
- (1) The taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl and coots, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas —
  - (i) Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;
  - (ii) From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
  - (iii) From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
  - (iv) Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

## What Part 20.21(i) of the Code of Federal Regulations Means

You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

### The 10-Day Rule

A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain, or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

### What is Legal?

You can hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on, over, or from:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants.
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.
- Flooded harvested croplands.
- Lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural harvesting or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation.
- Lands or areas where top-sown seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or postmining land reclamation.
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.
- On or over standing, or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

## Waterfowl Hunting on Agricultural Lands

Agricultural lands offer prime waterfowl hunting opportunities. You can hunt waterfowl in fields of unharvested standing crops. You can also hunt over standing crops that have been flooded. You can flood fields after crops are harvested and use these areas for waterfowl hunting.

The presence of seed or grain in an agricultural area rules out waterfowl hunting unless the seed or grain is scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, normal agricultural harvesting, normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation, or normal agricultural soil stabilization practice. A normal agricultural planting, normal agricultural harvesting, or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken to produce **and** gather a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain. These activities must be conducted in accordance with official recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### Planting and Harvesting

A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing **and** gathering a crop. Normal agricultural plantings do not involve the placement of seeds in piles or other concentrations. Relevant factors include recommended planting dates, proper seed distribution, seed bed preparation, application rate, and seed viability. A normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of USDA State Extension Specialists. Lands planted by means of top sowing or aerial seeding can **only** be hunted if seeds are present solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting or normal soil stabilization practice. Lands planted as part of normal soil stabilization practices may be hunted over even if there is no intent to gather a crop.

Seeds that remain on the surface of the ground as the result of planting wildlife food plots, planting a “goose field,” or planting for erosion control on a construction site are examples of activities that constitute baiting since they are not plantings undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, agricultural soil erosion control, or post-mining land reclamation. You cannot hunt waterfowl over such areas.

A normal agricultural harvest is undertaken for the purpose of gathering a crop. The arrangement of harvested grain in long rows or piles should raise questions about the legality of the area for waterfowl hunting. A normal post-harvest manipulation first requires a normal agricultural harvest and removal of grain before any manipulation of remaining agricultural vegetation, such as corn stubble or rice stubble. You should be aware that although you can hunt doves over manipulated agricultural crops, you cannot hunt waterfowl over manipulated agricultural crops except after the field has been subject to a normal harvest and removal of grain (i.e., post-harvest manipulation).

If, for whatever reason, an agricultural crop or a portion of an agricultural crop has not been harvested (i.e., equipment failure, weather, insect infestation, disease, etc.) and the crop or remaining portion of the crop has been manipulated, then the area is a baited area and cannot be hunted for waterfowl. For example, no hunting could occur on or over a field of sweet corn that has been partially harvested and the remainder manipulated. To be considered normal, an agricultural planting, agricultural harvesting, and agricultural post-harvest manipulation must be conducted in accordance with official recommendations of USDA State Extension Specialists. However, the Service will continue to make final determinations about whether official recommendations were followed.

### Hunting Over Natural Vegetation

Natural vegetation is any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet because of its use as both an agricultural crop and a species of natural vegetation for moist soil management. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years is considered natural vegetation.

If you restore and manage wetlands as habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, you can manipulate the natural vegetation in these areas and make them available for hunting. Activities that fall within the definition of “manipulation” include mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, and herbicide treatments.

Natural vegetation is not intended to include plants grown as agricultural crops.

## Problem Areas

Feeding waterfowl. Many people feed waterfowl for the pleasure of birdwatching. It is illegal to hunt migratory game birds in an area where such feeding has occurred that could lure or attract birds to, on, or over any area where hunters are attempting to take them. The 10-day rule applies to such areas, and any salt, grain, or feed must be gone 10 days before hunting. The use of sand, shell grit, and artificial corn is not prohibited.

Distance. How close to bait can you hunt without breaking the law? There is no set distance. Court rulings vary depending on the circumstances. The influence of bait will increase or decrease depending on such factors as topography, weather, and waterfowl flight patterns. The question of distance can only be answered on a case-by-case basis. Remember, however, that the law prohibits hunting if bait is present that could lure or attract birds “to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.”

Manipulation of crops and other agricultural practices. Although you can hunt waterfowl over natural vegetation that has been manipulated, you cannot hunt waterfowl over any manipulations of agricultural crops that occur before harvest and removal of grain. You cannot hunt waterfowl on or over areas where farmers feed grain to livestock, store grain, or engage in other normal agricultural practices. You cannot hunt waterfowl on or over ponds or other waters where fish farmers feed food to their fish, or on or over areas where wildlife is being fed.

## The Hunter's Responsibility

As a hunter, you are responsible for determining whether your proposed hunting area is baited. Before hunting, you should:

- Familiarize yourself with Federal and State migratory game bird hunting regulations.
- Ask the landowner, your host or guide, and your hunting partners if the area has been baited.
- Suspect the presence of bait if you see waterfowl feeding in a particular area in unusual concentrations or displaying a lack of caution.
- Look for grain or other feed in the water, along the shore, and on the field. Pay particular attention to the presence of spilled grain on harvested fields and seeds planted by means of top-sowing.
- Confirm that scattered seeds or grains on agricultural lands are present solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, normal agricultural harvesting, normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice by consulting with USDA State Extension Specialists.
- Abandon the hunting site if you find grain or feed in an area and are uncertain about why it is there.

## Other Responsibilities

If you prepare lands for hunting, participate in such preparations, or direct such preparations, it is important for you to know and understand what practices constitute baiting. You should know **prior to hunting** what activities constitute baiting and when lands or other areas would be considered baited. If you bait or direct that an area be baited and allow hunting to proceed, you risk being charged with an offense that carries significant penalties.

## Strict Liability

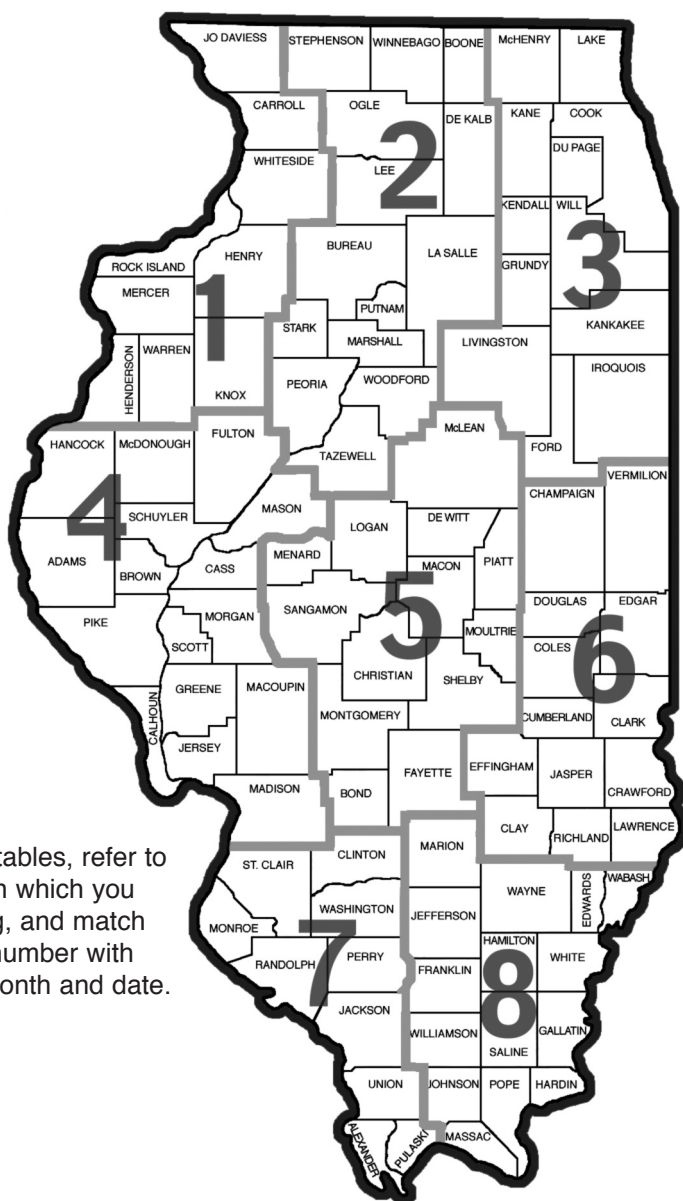
For years, courts in most parts of this country had historically applied a strict liability standard to baiting offenses. Under this standard, law enforcement officers did not have to prove that hunters knew bait was present in order to prove a violation had occurred. However, on October 30, 1998, Public Law 105-312 eliminated strict liability for baiting offenses and instead made it unlawful for anyone to hunt with the aid of bait “if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is a baited area.” The Service has incorporated this “knows or reasonably should know” standard in the baiting regulation to promote public understanding of the new law. As in the past, however, hunters are responsible for ensuring that no bait is present before they begin hunting. They should thoroughly inspect the field or marsh, question landowners and guides, and take other reasonable steps to verify the legality of their hunt.

## Penalties

Legislators increased the maximum fine for hunting over bait from \$5,000 to \$15,000. They also made the placement of bait a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act punishable by a fine up to \$100,000 for an individual or \$200,000 for an organization, a prison term of up to one year, or both. In the past, individuals who baited fields were charged with “aiding and abetting,” that is, helping someone else commit the crime of hunting over bait. They face stiffer penalties under the new law.



# SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES BY REGION IN ILLINOIS



To use these tables, refer to map for region which you will be hunting, and match that region's number with appropriate month and date.

# OCTOBER

## REGION

SUNRISE  
SUNSET

These  
times  
have  
been  
adjusted  
to reflect  
the cor-  
rect time  
on all  
dates,  
including  
during  
Standard  
Time and  
Daylight  
Saving  
Time.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1		6:57 6:42	6:53 6:38	6:49 6:34	6:58 6:44	6:53 6:39	6:48 6:34	6:54 6:41	6:50 6:37	AM PM
2		6:58 6:41	6:54 6:36	6:50 6:32	6:59 6:42	6:54 6:38	6:49 6:32	6:55 6:40	6:51 6:36	
3		7:00 6:39	6:55 6:35	6:51 6:31	7:00 6:40	6:55 6:36	6:50 6:31	6:56 6:38	6:52 6:34	
4		7:01 6:37	6:56 6:33	6:52 6:29	7:01 6:39	6:56 6:34	6:51 6:29	6:57 6:37	6:52 6:33	
5		7:02 6:36	6:57 6:31	6:53 6:27	7:02 6:37	6:57 6:33	6:52 6:28	6:58 6:35	6:53 6:31	
6		7:03 6:34	6:58 6:30	6:55 6:26	7:03 6:36	6:58 6:31	6:53 6:26	6:59 6:34	6:54 6:30	
7		7:04 6:32	7:00 6:28	6:56 6:24	7:04 6:34	6:59 6:30	6:54 6:25	6:59 6:32	6:55 6:28	
8		7:05 6:31	7:01 6:26	6:57 6:22	7:05 6:32	7:00 6:28	6:55 6:23	7:00 6:31	6:56 6:27	
9		7:06 6:29	7:02 6:25	6:58 6:21	7:06 6:31	7:01 6:27	6:56 6:21	7:01 6:29	6:57 6:25	
10		7:07 6:27	7:03 6:23	6:59 6:19	7:07 6:29	7:02 6:25	6:57 6:20	7:02 6:28	6:58 6:24	
11		7:08 6:26	7:04 6:21	7:00 6:18	7:08 6:28	7:03 6:23	6:58 6:18	7:03 6:26	6:59 6:22	
12		7:09 6:24	7:05 6:20	7:01 6:16	7:09 6:26	7:04 6:22	6:59 6:17	7:04 6:25	7:00 6:21	
13		7:10 6:23	7:06 6:18	7:02 6:14	7:10 6:25	7:05 6:20	7:00 6:15	7:05 6:24	7:01 6:20	
14		7:11 6:21	7:07 6:16	7:03 6:13	7:11 6:23	7:06 6:19	7:01 6:14	7:06 6:22	7:02 6:18	
15		7:13 6:20	7:08 6:15	7:04 6:11	7:12 6:22	7:07 6:17	7:02 6:12	7:07 6:21	7:03 6:17	
16		7:14 6:18	7:09 6:14	7:06 6:10	7:13 6:20	7:08 6:16	7:03 6:11	7:08 6:19	7:04 6:15	
17		7:15 6:16	7:11 6:12	7:07 6:08	7:14 6:19	7:09 6:15	7:04 6:09	7:09 6:18	7:04 6:14	
18		7:16 6:15	7:12 6:11	7:08 6:07	7:15 6:17	7:10 6:13	7:05 6:08	7:10 6:17	7:05 6:13	
19		7:17 6:13	7:13 6:09	7:09 6:05	7:16 6:16	7:11 6:12	7:06 6:07	7:11 6:15	7:06 6:11	
20		7:18 6:12	7:14 6:08	7:10 6:04	7:18 6:14	7:12 6:10	7:07 6:05	7:12 6:14	7:07 6:10	
21		7:19 6:10	7:15 6:06	7:11 6:02	7:19 6:13	7:13 6:09	7:08 6:04	7:13 6:13	7:08 6:09	
22		7:20 6:09	7:16 6:05	7:12 6:01	7:20 6:11	7:14 6:08	7:09 6:02	7:14 6:11	7:09 6:07	
23		7:22 6:08	7:17 6:03	7:14 5:59	7:21 6:10	7:15 6:06	7:10 6:01	7:15 6:10	7:10 6:06	
24		7:23 6:06	7:19 6:02	7:15 5:58	7:22 6:09	7:16 6:05	7:11 6:00	7:16 6:09	7:11 6:05	
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27		7:26 6:02	7:22 5:58	7:18 5:54	7:25 6:05	7:20 6:01	7:15 5:56	7:19 6:05	7:14 6:01	
28		7:28 6:01	7:23 5:56	7:19 5:52	7:26 6:04	7:21 6:00	7:16 5:55	7:20 6:04	7:15 6:00	
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31		7:31 5:57	7:27 5:53	7:23 5:48	7:30 6:00	7:24 5:56	7:19 5:51	7:23 6:00	7:18 5:57	

# NOVEMBER

## REGION

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These times have been adjusted to reflect the correct time on all dates, including during Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	AM PM
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3	6:35 4:53	6:30 4:49	6:27 4:45	6:33 4:56	6:28 4:53	6:23 4:48	6:26 4:57	6:22 4:53	
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7	6:40 4:49	6:35 4:44	6:31 4:40	6:38 4:52	6:32 4:48	6:27 4:43	6:30 4:53	6:26 4:50	
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# DECEMBER

## REGION

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# JANUARY

## REGION

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# FEBRUARY

## REGION

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6:45 5:44	6:40 5:40	6:37 5:36	6:44 5:46	6:39 5:42	6:34 5:37	6:39 5:45	6:34 5:42
6:43 5:45	6:39 5:41	6:35 5:37	6:43 5:47	6:37 5:43	6:32 5:38	6:37 5:46	6:33 5:43
6:42 5:46	6:37 5:42	6:34 5:38	6:41 5:48	6:36 5:44	6:31 5:39	6:36 5:48	6:31 5:44
6:40 5:47	6:36 5:43	6:32 5:39	6:40 5:50	6:34 5:45	6:30 5:40	6:34 5:49	6:30 5:45
6:39 5:49	6:34 5:44	6:30 5:40	6:38 5:51	6:33 5:47	6:28 5:41	6:33 5:50	6:29 5:46
6:37 5:50	6:33 5:46	6:29 5:42	6:37 5:52	6:32 5:48	6:27 5:42	6:32 5:51	6:27 5:47

AM  
PM



# MARCH

## REGION

SUNRISE  
SUNSET

DST

These times have been adjusted to reflect the correct time on all dates, including during Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time.

1	6:36 5:51	6:31 5:47	6:27 5:43	6:35 5:53	6:30 5:49	6:25 5:44	6:30 5:52	6:26 5:48	AM PM
2	6:34 5:52	6:30 5:48	6:26 5:44	6:34 5:54	6:29 5:50	6:24 5:45	6:29 5:53	6:25 5:49	
3	6:32 5:53	6:28 5:49	6:24 5:45	6:32 5:55	6:27 5:51	6:22 5:46	6:28 5:54	6:23 5:50	
4	6:31 5:55	6:27 5:50	6:23 5:46	6:31 5:56	6:26 5:52	6:21 5:47	6:26 5:55	6:22 5:51	
5	6:29 5:56	6:25 5:51	6:21 5:47	6:29 5:57	6:24 5:53	6:19 5:48	6:25 5:56	6:20 5:52	
6	6:28 5:57	6:23 5:53	6:19 5:49	6:28 5:58	6:23 5:54	6:18 5:49	6:23 5:57	6:19 5:53	
7	6:26 5:58	6:22 5:54	6:18 5:50	6:26 5:59	6:21 5:55	6:16 5:50	6:22 5:58	6:17 5:54	
8	7:24 6:59	7:20 6:55	7:16 6:51	7:25 7:01	7:20 6:56	7:15 6:51	7:20 6:59	6:16 6:55	
9	7:23 7:00	7:18 6:56	7:15 6:52	7:23 7:02	7:18 6:57	7:13 6:52	7:19 7:00	7:15 6:56	
10	7:21 7:01	7:17 6:57	7:13 6:53	7:21 7:03	7:16 6:58	7:11 6:53	7:17 7:01	7:13 6:56	
11	7:19 7:02	7:15 6:58	7:11 6:54	7:20 7:04	7:15 7:59	7:10 6:54	7:16 7:01	7:12 6:57	
12	7:18 7:04	7:13 6:59	7:10 6:55	7:18 7:05	7:13 7:00	7:08 6:55	7:14 7:02	7:10 6:58	
13	7:16 7:05	7:12 7:00	7:08 6:57	7:17 7:06	7:12 7:01	7:07 6:56	7:13 7:03	7:09 6:59	
14	7:14 7:06	7:10 7:02	7:06 6:58	7:15 7:07	7:10 7:02	7:05 6:57	7:11 7:04	7:07 7:00	
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17	7:09 7:09	7:05 7:05	7:01 7:01	7:10 7:10	7:05 7:05	7:00 7:00	7:07 7:07	7:03 7:03	
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31	6:46 7:25	6:41 7:20	6:38 7:16	6:47 7:25	6:43 7:20	6:38 7:15	6:45 7:20	6:41 7:16	

## Contacting a Conservation Police Officer

The Department of Natural Resources' Office of Law Enforcement developed the "Target Illinois Poachers" program to encourage any concerned citizen who witnesses a poaching offense to report the violation. The toll-free number is 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529). Simply defined, "poaching" is the illegal taking or possession of game and non-game animals, fish or other resources. Hunting out of season and hunting at night with spotlights are two of the most obvious signs of poaching. Hunters and fishermen possessing more than the legal limit is another. Slow moving or partially hidden vehicles, shots heard at unusual hours or game being concealed are all suspect.

But there is another serious problem that affects everyone: pollution. DNR is teaming up with the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to investigate and bring to prosecution those who would intentionally pollute our land, water and air. If you are aware of improper dumping of discarded chemical or petroleum barrels or of any other potential environmental crime, please report it. If you locate an environmental hazard, keep a safe distance and call the TIP hotline with the details at 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529).

Remember good law enforcement is everybody's responsibility. If you see a violation, report it.  
**Let's Target Illinois' Poachers and Polluters!**

# T.I.P.



**Target Illinois**  
**POACHERS**



*Call Toll-Free*

# 1-877-2DNR-LAW

## 1-877-236-7529

The Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

***Operates 24 hrs./day - 7 days/week.***

**Ameritech Relay 1-800-526-0644 for the deaf and hearing impaired.**

**For all other requests for an Illinois Conservation Police Officer (CPO) after regular business hours, contact your Illinois State Police District HQ dispatch Center.**

**ILLINOIS**




**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

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To order additional copies of this booklet, contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.

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